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SR 814.00

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA — 112 (DESP. NO.)

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. — August 12, 1957 (DATE)

REF : F739009-1291 — U/MSA-1

AUG 13 1957

	ACTION	INFO
	112-4	DEPT. RMR-2 ARA-8 E-3 ICA-10 P-1
	8-16	OTHER ARA-12

SUBJECT: Meeting Between Guatemalan Acting President and Director of USOM/Guatemala

A meeting between Acting President Luis Arturo GONZALEZ Lopez and Mr. Oscar M. Powell, Counselor of Embassy for Economic Affairs and Director of the United States Operations Mission in Guatemala, was held on August 7 in the office of the Acting President in the National Palace. Copy of a Memorandum of Conversation prepared by Mr. Powell is enclosed.

For the Ambassador:

John M. Vebber
Counselor of Embassy

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
AUG 17 1957

Enclosure:

Copy of Memorandum of Conversation.

714.00/8-1257 HJS

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 6/4/75
PER Evans OFFICE A2A
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-R-201

DISCLOSURE POOR QUALITY

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Page ___ of
Desp. No. ___
From ___

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Page 1 of
Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 112
From Guatemala

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants: The Acting President
Col. Enrique Oliva
Oscar M. Powell

Date: August 7, 1957

Last week Col. Enrique Oliva came to my office and told me that Lic. Gonzales, the Acting President, wished me to know that his government would continue fully to support the cooperative programs which the United States and Guatemala have been carrying on and that he would like to discuss them with me.

An appointment was arranged by Col. Oliva and he and I met with the President for about an hour this morning, August 7.

The President began by expressing his appreciation and the gratitude of the Guatemalan Government for the "generous and effective" aid of the United States. He said that, while he knew in general of the programs, he wished to become more familiar with them and to do what needed to be done to facilitate their execution and to assure their success.

At his request I described briefly the various projects on which we have been working. I attempted to give him a hurried review of the considerations which had led to decisions to undertake the several projects in: roads, agricultural improvement, rural resettlement, rural and urban secondary education, public health, low-cost housing, economic, financial and public administration advice (Klein & Saks), police administration and port planning.

The President said that, in his opinion, not enough was known by the general public as to the extent and usefulness of U.S. aid, that he wished to inform himself in detail and would talk with "other elements in the government" as to means which might be used to bring about wider understanding and appreciation.

I told him that I believe the projects in general are progressing reasonably well, but not as rapidly or effectively as they might. I told him that there were a number of problems, financial and administrative, which need attention. He said that during the coming week, if it could be arranged, he should like to take up these matters one by one and try to arrive at early and satisfactory solutions.

I mentioned the matter of capital contributions to the Agricultural Bank as one of the financial matters which required early attention.

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(Classification)

The President said that the political problems confronting the government were difficult and urgent and required priority treatment, but that it was his desire and intention to leave nothing undone which he could do to remove impediments to our cooperative projects.

Both Col. Oliva and I spoke of the meetings which had been held to discuss government reorganization. Col. Oliva expressed the opinion that transfer of budget and personnel functions to the President's office was a matter of first importance. The President said that he wanted to study the Klein & Saks recommendations on reorganization, and to my surprise, indicated that he thought that efforts to effect desirable changes should continue.

He said that he had had difficulty in finding a competent person who would be willing to take time from his normal activities to serve as Minister of Education during this interim period. He said that he believed an appeal to patriotism would induce a good man to accept.

When he again said that he wished to discuss pending problems as soon as possible, I told him that if he wished, I would undertake to furnish him for his consideration a list of the more urgent ones with our suggestions for solutions. He said that such material would be useful to him.

Col. Oliva told the President that two or three assistants were needed to carry out the responsibilities of the coordinator's office. I expressed agreement and said that I believed good staff work in this office would conserve the President's time and facilitate necessary coordination.

The President seemed relaxed. He displayed interest, asked pertinent questions and was very cordial. I was encouraged to hope that he will be more active and decisive than I had expected.

O. M. Powell

CMP:vl

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

399

SUBJECT: State of Siege Lifted

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Today, four days short of the [illegible] proclaimed, the Government lifted the State of Siege under which Guatemala was placed following the assassination of President Castillo. The announcement by Defense Minister Colonel Juan Francisco Oliva at 8:10 last night emphasized his satisfaction over the peace and calm which has prevailed in the country since the assassination and urged moderation in the interests of democracy in the coming presidential elections.

Colonel Oliva underscored again that the Army will be impartial in the coming elections, standing alert to protect freedom of suffrage and democratic constitutional processes. In this same connection, he urged repeatedly upon all citizens respect for differences of opinion. He stated that he would have to qualify as "bad Guatemalans" all those who used insolent, insulting and intemperate language toward the opposition and that he considered that the "best Guatemalans" will be the ones who show tolerance for their opponents' opinions. The Minister quoted Voltaire's famous dictum ("I disagree with what you say but I shall defend to the death your right to say it") and stated that he felt it represented the highest spirit of democracy. He went on to state that the rights of others are sacred and that the right of freedom of opinion is foremost.

Colonel Oliva closed his announcement by reiterating the Army's dedication to constitutional order and by repeating that it would put down vigorously any attempt to foment disorder, to violate freedom of suffrage or to disregard the provisions of the constitution.

Several times in the course of his statement, he mentioned that Guatemala's international reputation had been enhanced in the days following President Castillo's assassination and that he considered that it was the duty of all good citizens to see that this reputation for mature civic-mindedness not be besmirched during the coming electoral campaign. In closing he said: "Let us not forget that

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those who foment hate are out of place in a democratic contest and that the actions of such undesirable persons are those of agents of international communism. And we Guatemalans know from sad experience that communism is incompatible with the happiness of our land".

The text of the decree ending the State of Siege is enclosed.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Benjamin J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

Enclosure:

As stated.

F7509O9-1O09

Decreto 591

EL PRESIDENTE DE LA REPUBLICA:

Considerando: Que el pueblo de Guatemala, al expresar su dolor por la trágica muerte del presidente de la república, coronel Carlos Castillo Armas, ha testimoniado al mismo tiempo su decisión de normar su conducta bajo los auspicios de la paz y de la concordia nacionales.

Considerando: Que es necesario restablecer cuanto antes, el pleno disfrute de las garantías constitucionales y que gracias a las medidas dictadas por el gobierno de la republica, se ha asegurado la preservación del orden público, desapareciendo en consecuencia, las causas que determinaron la emisión del decreto No. 590 (bis) del ejecutivo Por Tanto: en consejo de ministros Decreta:

Articulo 1 - Cesan los efectos del decreto gubernativo No. 590 (bis), por medio del cual se ordenó la aplicación de la Ley de orden público, en el grado de Estado de sitio. En tal virtud, se restablece la vigencia plena de las garantías constitucionales.

Articulo 2.- El presente decreto entra en vigor inmediatamente.

Dado en elPalacio nacional en Guatemala, a los veintidos días del mes de agosto de mil novecientos cincuenta y siete.

F753009-1310

INCOMING TELEGRAM Department of State 400

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Control: 14149
Rec'd: August 22, 1957
8:01 p.m.

FROM: Guatemala City

TO: Secretary of State

NO: 61, August 22

Government terminated state of siege midnight yesterday. President of Congress announced intention schedule elections October 20 which Congress expected momently approve.

SPARKS

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F750309-1211

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA — 159 DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON — August 26, 1957 DATE

REF :

This document released to public per Exmbus ARA — SB-201 6/4/75

SS For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEPT.
	ARA-4	ARA/A-2 OLE-8 P-1
	REC'D 8/30	INFO OTHER CIA-12 USIA-10 Navy-3

SUBJECT: President González Calls for Moderation in Electoral Campaign

In a radio address on August 22 President González expressed his satisfaction over the calm which has prevailed during the period since President Castillo's death and called for moderation and tolerance during the coming electoral campaign. The President's statement was parallel in tone to that of Defense Minister Oliva 24 hours earlier regarding the ending of the state of siege (Embdespatch 152, Aug. 22). The interval of 24 hours was the same as for Oliva's and Gonzalez' speeches two weeks earlier concerning constitutional succession (Embdespatch 106, Aug. 8).

President González referred to constitutional succession. He stated that for the first time in the history of Guatemala its people will have the possibility for making a democratic choice of President. He listed the factors which will make this possible: an Army conscious of and conscientious toward its duty, a legislative body determined to maintain due process, and his own unshakeable determination to break with the vice of "continuismo".

He spoke of the fact that Guatemala is entering upon a time of testing, when it will be up to the people of the country to act as guardians of their liberty. He spoke of the social and material progress which is evident on all sides. Thereafter he mentioned the fact that Guatemala is approaching the political maturity for which it has longed since its independence. He mentioned in this connection the secrecy of the ballot (with reference specifically to illiterates), balloting limited to a period of one day (as a hindrance to fraud), and the legal safeguards which surround the creation and activities of political parties.

Finally, he noted that elections are an important factor in electoral campaigns (as Colonel Oliva had emphasized 24 hours earlier); he expressed his pride and satisfaction over the fact that the press has been patriotic and civic-minded in guiding the opinions and emotions of the public to date; and he called upon all Guatemalans to be prudent and circumspect, to the end that democracy and progress will not deviate from the path set for them by President Castillo.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:
Owen J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS
SEP 1957
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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy STOCKHOLM

240
DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 26, 1957
DATE

REF : F750009-1213

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S/P-1

	ACTION	INFO
Amb. Dana Min. Cruz	EUR-5	RPM/R-2 OLI-8 P-1 ARA-4 EUR/R-1 U/O-1
	W.C'D 9/31	OTHER OIA-15 OSD-4 Army-1 Navy-3 AIR-3 USIA-1

SUBJECT: Continued Communist Interest in Guatemala

OCB/

TO THE RM/R CENTRAL FILES

"Catgöten", a small provincial paper of Social Democratic orientation, on August 18th published an item in which it stated that through American intervention, Guatemala has become a dictatorship pure and simple. "All civil rights are subordinated to regard for the country's 'security', that is to say, arbitrary action on the part of the authorities. The dictatorship is being justified by alleging 'a Communist conspiracy'. But how can Communism be contended with through depriving citizens of their rights?"

Whatever set off "Catgöten" is unknown since a Social Democratic paper would not generally so closely parrot the Communist line; but its commentary was quickly seized upon by the Communist organ, "Ny Dag" of Stockholm, as a handy contribution to its own continued anti-American propaganda campaign. "Ny Dag" quoted "Catgöten" and added that the United Fruit Company, "whose interests lay behind the American intervention", had not found it difficult to convince the State Department of the need for Guatemala being ruled by a dictatorship.

For the Chargé d'Affaires a.i.

5-8-201
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6/4/75

Andrew E. Donovan II
Counselor of Embassy
for
Political Affairs

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

Amembassy GUATEMALA ENCLOSURE FOOR QUALITY F750309-1213

THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON. August 28, 1957

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DEPT. ACTION: ARA 4 INFO: Amb.2 OLI-8 P-1 E-4 Rec.2 IOA-10 C14-12 USIA-10 Army-4 NAVY-3 COM-10 TR-3 R-2

Subject: Prensa Libre Interview with Presidential Candidate Ortiz Passarelli

File # 440.5

On August 26, independent Prensa Libre published the report of an interview with presidential candidate Miguel Ortiz Passarelli, in which he made as full a statement as the Embassy has seen concerning his political philosophy. A text of the interview, as published in Prensa Libre, is enclosed.

Sr. Ortiz' remarks were in part a repetition of his statement to the press on August 23 (Emb. Desp. No. 158, August 26). He repudiated extremes of left and right; said the Army is non-political and has no candidate; and expressed hope to see the aims of the 1944 and 1954 revolutions realized (the aims were the same, but the 1944 revolution was subverted by communism).

Furthermore, Sr. Ortiz said he hoped to see Castillo Armas' five-year economic plan carried to completion; that he favors the late President's policy of Central American economic integration; that he believes Guatemala should continue to receive foreign economic aid; and private enterprise and capital must be protected and encouraged.

Workers' conditions must be improved, Sr. Ortiz said. Increased production will permit steady employment, good salaries and a low cost of living. Collective bargaining pacts should supplement the provisions of the minimum wage law.

Sr. Ortiz said his ideology is democratic and he described democratic government as one based on law and supported by the people.

In reply to a question regarding a general amnesty for Guatemalans in exile, Sr. Ortiz said it would be illegal but that individual cases may have to be reviewed.

He said that unemployment was a major problem in the country and that if elected, he would give it priority attention.

Enclosure:
As stated.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:
Benjamin J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

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Los problemas particulares y nacionales, deben resolverse adecuadamente en su tiempo y extendo son orden caso: tanto los políticos, como los sociales y económicos. Es el criterio en general que sustenta el licenciado Miguel Ortiz Passarelli, candidato a la presidencia de la república.

Estima que el código de trabajo - ley fundamental reguladora de los derechos mínimos de los trabajadores - debe ampliarse, mediante la celebración de pactos y contratos colectivos de trabajo, ya que dicho código, dice contiene derechos mínimos; por consiguiente, cree que son derechos que pueden ampliarse mediante la acción unificada de trabajadores organizados, autoridades y patronos, a través de los pactos colectivos de condiciones de trabajo.

Creo, ha dicho, que los problemas fundamentales del país están vigorosamente enfocados y en vías de resolverse dentro del plan quinquenal que finaliza en 1960 y cuyo impulso y proyección dada por el gobierno del coronel CarlosCastillo Armas, debe continuarse a efecto de resolver todas esas necesidades, como lo son: vías de comunicación, puentes, hospitales, reforma agraria, salubridad, etc.

Tanto los problemas antes señalados como otros aspectos de la vida nacional, fueron enfocados por el licenciado Miguel Ortiz Passarelli, en una entrevista concedida a Prensa Libre a fines de la semana, con ocasión de haberse iniciado en el país la actividad política en pro de su candidatura presidencial por un grupo de personas amigas y el partido oficial Movimiento democrático nacionalista.

Problema de una amnistía general

El licenciado Ortiz Passarelli ha dicho que las amnistías están prohibidas por la ley. Tal respuesta la dió al ser preguntado sobre cómo cree que podría resolverse el problema de muchos guatemaltecos que por razones de orden político se encuentran fuera del país. Agregó que estando abolidas las amnistías, lo que procede hacerse - de llegar al solio presidencial - es estudiar individualmente cada problema de las personas exiliadas, para resolverlo adecuadamente.

Crimen presidencial: debe investigarse

En relación al asesinato del coronel CarlosCastillo Armas, el candidato presidencial Ortiz Passarelli ha expresado su criterio en el sentido de que es un hecho que debe investigarse a fondo y llevarlo al final como corresponde.

Tengo la plena convicción de que se trata de un suceso tramado internacionalmente y por lo tanto deben perseguirse sus hilos hasta descubrir los orígenes y los responsables. En caso de llegar a la presidencia de la república, dijo, me empeñaré por tal investigación ya que deberá ser uno de los objetivos fundamentales de la justicia en el nuevo gobierno, sobre todo, si durante el actual régimen provisorio, no se llega a descubrir toda la trama del crimen.

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Area en la unión Centroamericana.

Estima fundamental la realización de planes básicos de integración económica centroamericana; los tratados que se han firmado deben mantenerse y si es posible mejorarse, ya que tengo fe en los ideales centroamericanistas que animaron al gobierno del coronel Castillo Armas y que son los mismos míos.

Todos estamos acordes con una política de amistad, sobre todo en los órdenes económico y cultural, con todos los países de Centro América.

Política internacional y cooperación

Ortiz Passarelli ha sido categórico en sus declaraciones sobre la política internacional relacionada con la cooperación, especialmente en el orden económico.

Sobre el particular dijo que Guatemala debe continuar recibiendo la ayuda extranjera como parte de su consecuencia con la política occidental y para lograr por ese medio, salir de su condición de país atrasado económicamente impulsando su progreso mediante la realización de obra material intensa proveniente de la combinación de esfuerzo nacional y extranjero, cuya ayuda estima es necesaria y no debe por consiguiente ser rechazada.

El ejército una institución apolítica

El licenciado Ortiz Passarelli dice que siendo el ejército nacional una institución apolítica, mal podría apoyar su candidatura.

Desde que se institucionalizaron los partidos políticos, dice, son estas agrupaciones las únicas que pueden postular candidatos a la presidencia de la república así como para otros cargos de elección popular y por consiguiente, ha sido relevada a la historia la prática anterior de que los gobiernos podían auspiciar una candidatura.

Problemas sociales: el niño, piedra de toque

El entrevistado ha hablado de todos los problemas, sin embargo nos hace énfasis en un aspecto humano de los problemas sociales en su más amplia acepción: el niño. No es justo, dijo, que sigan resolviéndose todos los problemas del país y no demos una mirada especial al niño, que es la piedra de toque de la nacionalidad. Todos se preocupan de todo, pero ninguno lo hace en forma particular del niño y yo sí estimo que merece atención preferente.

Debemos resolver su problema, buscándole a la madre facilidades de todo tipo para que el tratamiento de sus hijos no sea relevado y éstos puedan ser sanos, valiosos a la sociedad y no sufran la tragedia del adulto desde que son infantes.

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Problema laboral y de producción

Señala la necesidad que tiene el país de garantizar al inversionista sus esfuerzos. De mejorar las condiciones de vida de los trabajadores y de elevar la capacidad económica nacional.

En cuanto a los primeros, hace constar que hay una ley de fomento industrial que debe mantenerse y superarse en lo posible, para continuar protegiendo efectivamente a los industriales así como a los agricultores.

Los trabajadores, dice, deben mejorar sus condiciones de vida, mediante el trabajo permanente, buenos salarios y el mantenimiento de un bajo costo de la vida. Estos tres aspectos, dice, pueden lograrse únicamente mediante la producción acelerada en todos los órdenes de la vida activa del país: agrícola, comercial e industrial. Habiendo trabajo, hay ocupación, salarios a tiempo y por consiguiente un standard de vida normal, dijo, y por eso nos empeñaremos...

Para los trabajadores que son la mayor parte de la población del país, dice, deben concretarse las soluciones de sus problemas; así es como cree que el régimen de seguridad social debe ampliar sus prestaciones, no sólo en cuanto a su contenido sino en su proyección territorial. Dar seguridad social a los trabajadores de todod el país y prestar cuanto antes el servicio relacionado con las enfermedades comunes.

Gobierno democrático

Expresa que su ideología es democrática. Por consiguiente dice que es enemigo de todos los extremos y de toda clase de dictaduras. Para lograr un gobierno democrático, dijo, son necesarias dos cosas: ajustar los actos del régimen a la ley y contar con el respaldo del pueblo. Lo primero es fácil, ya que se trata simplemente de mantenerse dentro de los preceptos señalados por la constitución y demás leyes del país; lo segundo es difícil, pero se puede lograr, si los actos de gobierno son en beneficio del pueblo.

Trataré en mi gobierno - al llegar a la presidencia de la república- dijo, de dar vigencia a los postulados de la revolución del 44 que son los mismos del movimiento de liberación realizado el año 54. Lo que ocurrió con aquellos principios, dijo, es que los desviaron los comunistas, por lo que dejaron de tener la vida dinámica que su propio movimiento social les dió.

Vida particular y pública

Ortiz Passarelli es abogado y notario y como tal ha desempeñado algunas judicaturas y últimamente la presidencia del organismo judicial, habiendo llegado a ese cargo al dejar el ministerio de gobernación durante el gobierno del coronel Castillo Armas.

Durante los gobiernos de Arévalo-Arbenz, fué opositor y militó en las filas anticomunistas. Por tal motivo fué expulsado del país, pero gracias a un recurso de amparo del colegio de abogados, se reintegró al suelo patrio.

Es casado con la señora Elvira Sáenz de Tejada, con quien ha procreado cuatro hijos. Nació en esta capital el 7 de septiembre de 1908.

Prensa Libre, Agosto 26 de 1957.

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FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

F759309-1218

FROM : Amembassy GUATEMALA

173

DESP. NO.

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

August 30, 1957

DATE

AUG 3

REF :

6/4/75

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	ARA 4	RM/R 2 OCI-8 P-1
	REC'D P-2	OTHER CIA-12 USIA-10 ARMY-4 NAVY-3 S-B-201

SUBJECT: Developments in Presidential Campaign

On August 28 the Movimiento Democrático Nacionalista (MDN) nominated former Supreme Court President Miguel Ortiz Passarelli by acclamation as its candidate for President. The day before (Aug. 27) he had been nominated by the Partido Unificación Anticomunista and the day following (August 29) he was nominated by the Partido Liberal. These three parties, together with other smaller groups, have joined forces for the presidential campaign under the name "Unión Patriótica Anticomunista".

For the MDN convention the Political Committee had selected three possible candidates: Ortiz; Lic. Federico Carbonell Rojas (President of Congress) and Dr. Salvador Ortega Castellanos (Congressman). The latter two withdrew in favor of Ortiz immediately following the nominating speeches.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE INTERDEPARTMENTAL SEP 4 1957

In his acceptance speech Ortiz affirmed his faith in democracy without adulteration, and his intention to practice it. He said that if Castillo Armas should look down and see any failure to follow his ideological legacy, he would turn his back. He added that the fundamental task was to eradicate communism, to drag it out of its dark tunnel and stamp it out once and for all.

He expressed his intention to work for the realization of the legitimate human aspirations of the people. "A people which lives in poverty is without the strength to demand its freedom", he said. "A weak people can never attain its rightful civic stature. Man is due the enjoyment of his material and spiritual patrimony".

It should not be inferred that Ortiz will have no opposition. The Christian Democrats are expected to nominate an opposition candidate soon, and repeatedly mention Juan Cordova Cerna. General Miguel Ydígoras Fuentes has resigned as Ambassador to Colombia and is returning to Guatemala to campaign as the candidate of his party, Partido Reconciliación Democrática Nacional, also called Redención Nacional. At least one left-of-center group, Partido Revolucionario, is making hurried efforts to obtain legal registration.

SEP 4 1957

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Page 2
Desp. No. 173
Guatemala

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F750303-1219

Presidential and congressional elections will take place October 20. The deadline for filing candidates is 20 days before the election date for congressional seats, 30 days before for the Presidency. The 33 congressmen (half of Congress) to be elected for full four year terms will take office March 1, 1958. The newly elected President is expected to take office (for six years) about December 1, 1957.

FOR THE AMBASSADOR:

Benjamin J. Ruyle
Second Secretary

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